

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2019

Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's Township Election was noon until 8:00 pm on March 12, 2019 as posted and published. Ron Gajewski ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position which he has held for a number of years. Twenty-nine residents voted for Ron. Congratulations Ron on your re-election!

The 2020 budget was proposed to the electorate at the 8:30 pm Annual Meeting following the closing of the voting poll. The prepared budget of \$364,000 broke down as follows:

Roads	\$102,600	Hall	\$29,000	Recycling	\$1,500
Fire	\$111,500	Park	\$12,800	General	\$106,600

The Board approved \$77,755 of aggregate revenue to be used toward the budget. The proposed levy of \$286,245 was unanimously approved by the electorate present. This is the eleventh consecutive year without a levy increase.

Proctor School Board member Lynn Peterson reported the sports arena is completed. The REA3D banquet hosting 178 attendants was held in the community gathering area on the second level. Included in the referendum Townships in the district received \$50,000 for enhancing their recreational facilities. Lynn updated us on the latest computer equipment and technologies that are in use. Additional cameras will be installed throughout the school facilities.

Other agenda items discussed during the meeting were:

- Hall rental fees and regulations were reviewed. No changes were suggested.
- Cemetery rules and regulations were reviewed. It was recommended solar light decorations be allowed year round.
- The electorate again approved \$1,000 toward hosting a National Night Out held the first Tuesday evening in August and \$1,000 for an appreciation dinner for current and retired firefighters, Flamettes and township employees.
- The electorate also approved \$100 donations to the South St. Louis County Fair, "Night to Shine" event, and Proctor Chem-Free Grad Party.
- A broadband availability update was given. It should be available throughout the Township by 2022.
- The Township's use of monies from the Proctor bond referendum were discussed: bleacher, team benches, soccer nets and goals, warming house.
- The status of the Community Development Block Grant monies for handicapped accessible playground equipment was shared.
- Publishing of township notices will continue in the Duluth News-Tribune, Proctor Journal, Hermantown Star and Cloquet Pine Knot.
- Posting sites continue at the town hall, recycling shed, Saginaw Post Office and Saginaw Union Station.
- Information on a proposed dog park at the townsite was shared. After discussion the majority of the present electorate recommended rejecting the dog park.

The 2020 Annual Meeting and Election will be held March 10, 2020.

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SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairperson: Scott Welsh

Supervisors:

Clare R. Stromlund and

Ron Gajewski

Clerk: Regena Merritt

Treasurer: Cindy Moe

Office Hours: M, T, Th 9-3

For Hall Rentals call 729-5134, leave your name, number and date wanted. Phone: 218-729-5134 Fax: 218-729-5651

Township website:
solwaytownship-MN.gov

Email:
solwayclerk@hotmail.com

Jeff Keppers — Citizen of the Year

At the Annual Town Meeting on March 12th, Jeff Keppers was named as Solway Township Citizen of the Year for 2019. Jeff's nomination recognizes his always being willing to give of himself to whatever cause that needs some help.

As a member of Solway's Special Events Committee the last eight years, Jeff is always working to make events such as our Halloween Carnival, National Night Out and Winter Fun Day a success. Up front running "bingos" or behind the scenes preparing and setting up, Jeff's contributions help make these events run smooth and be successful.

Jeff has served on the Solway Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter for 13 years. This is probably the most demanding volunteer service one can do as you're on call 24/7 to respond to fire, accident or medical emergencies. A firefighter is often in harms way while trying to help others in need.

It is fitting to recognize Jeff for his service and for representing others who serve the Solway Community. Congratulations Jeff on receiving this award. Your name will be added to the Citizen of the Year honor plaque in the town hall in addition to your receiving your personal recognition plaque. Thank you for your many contributions to our Solway Community.

Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting

The Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting for Solway Township will be held at Solway Town Hall on Tuesday May 7th at 4:00 pm. Property valuations and classifications determined by the assessor for this year's assessment, which will be the basis of taxes payable next year, shall be reviewed by the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization. The Board shall make such changes and corrections in valuations and classifications as it shall deem proper to achieve equalization within the jurisdiction. Property owners may appear in person, by representative, or send a letter to this meeting requesting a review of the assessment. The local board shall consider the appeal and take appropriate action.

The law requires that property owners shall first appear before the local board, after which the owner may appeal the property valuation or classification to the County Board of Appeal & Equalization if not satisfied by the decision of the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization.

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Watch for the Community Education Program  
Brochure coming in the mail the first week in April.

## Property Tax Refund

To qualify for a Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund, you must be a full or part year resident of Minnesota for the year, and can't be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.

Eligibility is also based on your household income and property taxes paid on your principal residence in Minnesota, as outlined below.

**RENTERS:** Your household income for 2018 must be less than \$61,320. The maximum refund is \$2,150.

**HOMEOWNERS:** You may be eligible for one or both of the following refunds if you owned and lived in your home on Jan 2, 2018 and Jan 2, 2019. For Regular Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) 2018 household income must be less than \$113,150. The maximum refund is \$2,770.

For Special Homestead Credit Refund (for homeowners) there is no income limit, but the net property tax on your homestead property must have increased by more than 12% from 2018 to 2019. The increase must be at least \$100.

For more information go to the Minnesota Revenue site: [www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us).

## Culvert permits

Access to private properties off township roads require a township permit for the installation of property entrance culverts. Obtaining a permit requires a \$100 fee of which \$50 is returned to the property owner after the final inspection and the culvert is found to be properly installed.

An initial inspection of the proposed site for installation of the culvert is done with the applicant. At the inspection the length and diameter of the culvert as well as grade and ditching requirements for the installation are determined. The applicant can make arrangements for the installation. After the completion of the installation a final inspection occurs prior to getting the \$50 returned. Please note our office hours when a permit can be picked up. The permit can be mailed as well after receiving the fee.

## Township Road Inspection April 26th

The Town Board will make its annual inspection of Township roads on Fri. April 26th from 8AM to noon.

The purpose of the inspection is to determine how much gravel should be applied, condition of the ditches and drainage, if brushing is needed, culvert and signage replacement and other repairs.

If you have a special concern on a township road you may report it to the township office at 729-5134 or call the office to arrange a meeting with the Board during the inspection.

## Community Club News...

### Flamettes

Our Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday April 28th from 8AM to noon. We will be raffling off one mens and one womens basket of goods. All proceeds go to the Volunteer Fire Department. The cost for the breakfast is \$5.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children and age 5 and under free. This will be our last fundraiser until fall.

### Monday Bunch

Our Craft Sale will be on Saturday April 28th from 9 AM to 1 PM. Solway Senior Citizens will be selling lunch and bars. Tables are \$10.00 and there are a few left. Call Bonnie at 218-729-8382 to reserve a table.

Come join us Monday afternoons from 12:30 PM to 4 PM to share your talents with other crafters, or learn what others are doing. Bring your craft project to work on.

### Solway Senior Citizens

Come and join us for our meeting the third Thursday of each month at the town hall at 1PM. We have a short meeting, coffee & dessert and maybe bingo or some other entertainment. We are always looking for new members. Dues are only \$5.00 a year. We always have a catered meal for July.

### Munger Goodfellowship Club

Meet the second Thursday of the month. We are planning our yearly get together with area Homemakers in Floodwood! The Club will be planting flowers at the hall again this year. New members welcome. To join call Shirley at 729-7066. Hosting area clubs May 14th at Solway Town Hall 10:00 AM.

### Lakehead Harvest Reunion

We meet the first Monday of each month at 7 PM downstairs at the Solway Town Hall. Planting and spring work begins in April and May. This years show will be August 23rd, 24th and 25th. June through October meetings at show grounds.

### Maple Grove 4-H

4-H is for kids who learn by doing, exploring something new and developing life skills.

- Projects may include photography, plants, art, robotics, food, animals, and much more!
- In 4-H kids have fun learning with the help of parents, volunteers, and older youth 4-H members.

The Maple Grove 4-H meets the third Monday of the month at 6PM at the Solway Town Hall. Contact Amy at 729-0503 with any questions, or the 4-H Coordinator at 218-723-2873.

**S V F D Bingo**  
**April 13th - 6:00 PM**

## New Warming Shed

The Proctor School Referendum that funded the St. Lukes' Sports and Event Center for the Proctor School District also included \$50,000 to be available to each of the four Townships in the school district: Canosia, Grand Lake, Midway and Solway. These funds were designated for improving recreational facilities.

To date we have purchased a bleacher for the Munger site soccer field; new team benches for the Munger site field and new benches for the town hall soccer fields; soccer goals for the town hall fields and nets for all the goals.

The remainder of the monies are being used for the construction of a new building to replace the old warming house and rental buildings. Because of the old house being low to the ground, water would enter the building deteriorating the perimeter concrete blocks and interior wood walls that rested directly on the slab floor. The walls were decaying from constant wetness resulting in their accumulating mildew and mold. In addition to block repair and lower wall sections needing replacement the exterior siding also needed replacement. It was more cost effective to have a new more useable building constructed. The exterior of the building is completed except for door closures and in the spring concrete slabs in front of the doors and landscaping. It's anticipated the interior will be completed in the next month.

Rental table and chairs will be stored in the section with the overhead door. The rest of the building is designed as an open space for multiple uses. The building can be reserved for children's parties with its close proximity to the playground areas; small group gathering's and for outdoor family events as a backup in case the weather turns bad. During the winter it will be used as a warming house for skaters on the weekends.

The building is heated so as to be comfortable in cold weather. It can be reserved the same way you'd reserve the town hall.

## Recreational Disability Playground

In the lower playground area we have installed a new trail along which are located a number of activity stations for those confined to wheelchairs. These stations encourage motor development as well as sensory stimulation.

While some stations are already in place, once the ground thaws additional activity stations will be added. All children are welcome to use these stations while they are primarily geared to being inclusive for those with disabilities.

## Winter Fun Day Wrap Up

Numbers of Solway residents gathered for our annual winter fun day on January 26th. Free bingo was enjoyed by all and the more hardy made use of the ice rink and sliding hill.

Youngsters ran to the sliding hill to try their new sleds won at the free drawing. The bonfire was a welcome source of warmth to those gathered around for conversation. Smores were made and enjoyed in the town hall due to the cold.

By the end of the day \$300 was given out in \$10 bingo pots; twenty-six sleds found proud owners; 240 hot dogs and trimmings were consumed plus a variety of snacks including Darlene's homemade bars.

Those who attended had an opportunity to inspect the warming house. While still under construction many favorable comments were received about the building.

We thank the firefighters who not only flooded our ice rink but ran the bingo as well; the Special Events Committee for organizing the event and everyone else who made contributions to the success of the day. Hayrides were cancelled due to the cold weather.

We also thank those who attended our Halloween Carnival as profits from that event fund the other Special Events that are held throughout the year including the Winter Fun Day.

## You Have a Place: Solway Town Hall

Did you know the town hall is available to residents/property owners of the township for your family events? The hall is used for weddings, receptions, funerals, luncheons, birthday parties, graduation parties, family reunions, family gatherings to celebrate Baptisms or Confirmations, family rummage sales, craft sales, etc. If you have an upcoming event and your home is too small or you can't trust the weather for an outdoor gathering think "town hall".

For reservations call the town office at 729-5134.

## SWCD Tree/Shrub Sales

Time to order trees and shrubs for reforestation on your land from your local Soil and Water District. Order early for full selection and check the website if ordering after March 1<sup>st</sup> for availability. Popular items go quickly.

Go to [www.southstlouisswcd.org](http://www.southstlouisswcd.org) to view the list of trees and shrubs available for purchase and a description of each.

Questions? Our website answers common questions but if still in doubt? Contact our office at 218-723-4867 [info@southstlouisswcd.org](mailto:info@southstlouisswcd.org) or check us out on [facebook.com/southstlouisswcd](https://www.facebook.com/southstlouisswcd)

Reasons for planting trees and shrubs: added value to your property, soil and water conservation practices, wildlife and bird habitat, soil erosion prevention, energy conservation and added beauty are just a few.

If you have open land alongside roadways think about planting Living Snow Fences to prevent snow blowing over the roadway and causing a road hazard.

We now offer an opportunity to split an order with others. Just go to our facebook page to find a Seedling Share buying partner at [Facebook.com/southstlouisswcd](https://www.facebook.com/southstlouisswcd) or call 218-723-4867 for more information.

## Recycling Notes

Solway Township has been selected to participate in a new pilot recycling program by WLSSD. Consequently Solway's many recycling carts have been reduced to four dumpsters. This is an attempt to facilitate the handling and transporting of recyclables in a more quick and cost effective manner.

When coming to the recycling building just check the signs that indicate in which dumpster to drop your items. Paul is always available to answer any questions you may have as well. Also note, WLSSD has contracted with A-1 Disposal for recycling of plastic film. This includes plastic grocery and shopping bags, packaging wrappings and film of any kind. Black garbage bags are not accepted for recycling. Make sure all the plastics are clean and dry. These plastics are placed in A-1 Disposal orange carts in the recycling building.

Please note the following list of what we can and cannot accept.

Examples of what we **cannot** accept:

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Plastic cups, plates, utensils | Tin foil          |
| Clam-shell produce containers  | Gift wrapping     |
| Stryfoam in any form           | Dog/cat food bags |
| Alkaline batteries             | Scrap metal       |
| Food take home containers      |                   |

Examples of what we **can** accept:

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Glass bottles           | Shampoo bottles           |
| Milk & Laundry jugs     | Plastic tubs, jars & lids |
| Newspaper               | Peanut butter jars        |
| Tin cans                | Cardboard                 |
| Yogurt, sour cream tubs | Office paper              |
| Aluminum cans           | Plastic bottles           |
| Plastic wrap            |                           |

**Please wash all your recyclables before bringing them to the recycling center.**

Not all "recycling symbols" indicate the item is recyclable at our shed. Some numbers indicate what type of resin was used to make the plastic item. i.e. Stryfoam has a 6 surrounded by chasing arrows. The 6 indicates the Stryfoam is made from polystyrene; not that it is recyclable.

**Shed hours: Weds 3-6PM; Sats 8AM - 1:00 PM.**

## Use of Outdoor Facilities

With the promise of Spring we start looking to spend more free time out of doors. The township continues to maintain for your use and enjoyment a number of outdoor recreational facilities. They include our playgrounds that include handicapped accessible equipment, pavilion, hiking trails, basketball and tennis courts, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, baseball and soccer fields.

All of the facilities are free of charge and can be used on a first come first serve basis. Most of them can accommodate more than one group or party at a time. Just bring your personal sports equipment.

The baseball and soccer fields can be scheduled by teams for practices and games by contacting the town office at 729-5134. We keep scheduling calendars so all teams have reserved field times to avoid use conflicts. Groups can have pick up baseball, softball, basketball, football or soccer games anytime the fields are free from team practices or games.

Township personnel attempt to keep these facilities well maintained for your safety and convenience. If you have suggestions for improvements let us know. Please help us keep things clean by picking up and using garbage containers. If you bring a dog to the grounds, please make sure it doesn't bother others by keeping it leashed. Properly wrapped droppings can be put in garbage containers.

## SVFD Annual Report -- 2018

Solway Township Volunteer Fire Department Responded to 130 calls in 2018. These included 73 medical, 45 fire calls and 12 motor vehicle accidents. With reduced members on fire departments there is an increase need to use mutual aid for fires and other emergency incidents. We currently have 14 members.

We are always looking for new members, so if interested please contact our Fire Hall and leave a message at 218-729-6304.

## Area State Fire Wardens

To obtain a burning permit please contact one of the fire wardens listed below:

Dennis Essig-6365 Morris Thomas Road, 940-1966  
George Hughes-6995 Morris Thomas Rd, 391-0705  
Donald Gimpel-4387 Midway Rd, 729-6269

You may also get a burning permit at the Cloquet Area DNR Office by calling 879-0880, or online at [www.dnr.mn.us](http://www.dnr.mn.us). There is a \$5 charge per calendar year for the online service.

## Cemetery Regulations

With spring we like to remember our deceased loved ones by visiting and decorating their gravesites. At Solway Cemetery baskets/flowers are allowed May

1st through September 30th. Solar lighted decorations are allowed year around. Baskets should be of standard design not weighing more than 30 lbs. The care and maintenance of the baskets/flowers are the responsibility of the owner. Artificial flowers and decorations in moveable containers are also permitted. No trees, shrubs, plants or flowers are allowed to be planted at the cemetery.

One above ground monument and one ground level marker are allowed at each gravesite to help in maintenance and to create uniformity. Previously installed accessories are grandfathered in, but new ones will not be allowed.

Following the above helps personnel cutting grass and doing other maintenance work while still allowing our gravesites to be attractively decorated. If you would like a copy of the cemetery rules and regulations contact the Town Office.

## Memorial Day Observance

On May 27th, Memorial Day will be observed. Our memorial observance is traditionally held at the Solway Cemetery starting at noon. Ceremonies by the Proctor American Legion consisting of laying of a wreath at the Veterans Memorial Cross, 21 gun salute, and playing of taps to honor those who served in the United States military are followed by a non-denominational prayer service. All Township residents and family of the interned are encouraged to attend.

## 2019 Bookmobile Schedule

The Arrowhead Library System continues to operate it's Bookmobile. The Bookmobile comes to Solway every three weeks on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 PM to 3:45PM. You're invited to check out books, DVD's, tapes, etc. They are due back at the time of the next Bookmobile visit.

The Bookmobile is scheduled to visit Solway Thursdays April 18; May 9 & 30; June 20. Look for the Bookmobile in our parking lot.

## So St. Louis County Fair in Proctor:

Fair dates are Wed July 10th through Sunday July 14th with Tuesday July 9th as entry day in the Industrial Building For more information visit the website at [www.proctorduluthfair.com](http://www.proctorduluthfair.com).

## Country Music Show

Upcoming dates: 4/6, 5/4, 6/1.

**Flamettes Pancake Breakfast**  
**Sunday April 28th 8:00 AM to noon**  
**Adults \$5, Children \$3**  
**5 and under free**

**Town Office**  
**4029 Munger Shaw Road**  
**Cloquet, MN 55720**

**Phone: 218-729-5134**  
**Fax: 218-729-5651**  
**Email: solwayclerk@hotmail.com**

PRSRT STD  
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Duluth, MN

Change Service Requested

## ***Solway Section Lines***

### **A Farmers Market?**

The idea was recently presented to have a farmer's market at the town hall in the summer and fall. As the idea was tossed about it was proposed to designate a corner of the parking lot for this purpose. It was further suggested the market could be "open" the same days and times as the recycling shed. This way those coming to drop off recyclables could then browse thru the market as well. Of course everyone would be welcome not just those with recyclables.

Are there some producers and potential consumers out there? We'd like to hear your ideas and some indication if there is even interest in a market. Please e-mail (solwayclerk@hotmail.com) or call the township office to let us know your thoughts. After some feedback we'll let you know what's being decided in the July Section Lines.

### **Township Events Calendar**

April 6 ..... Country Music Show 5:00 pm  
April 9..... Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
April 13.....Solway Volunteer Fire Dept Bingo 6:00 pm  
April 18..... Bookmobile 3:00 pm  
April 26.....Road Inspection 8:00 am to noon  
April 27.....Monday Bunch Craft Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
April 28.....Flamettes/SVFD Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to noon  
May 4..... Country Music Show 5:00 pm  
May 7.....Local Board of Appeal and Equalization 4:00 pm  
May 9.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm  
May 14.....Primary Election 7:00 am to 8:00 pm  
May 21.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
May 27.....Memorial Day Observance-Cemetery at noon  
May 30..... Bookmobile 3:00 pm  
June 1..... Country Music Show 5:00 pm  
June 11 .....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
June 20 .....Bookmobile 3:00 pm